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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/853,674	05/14/2001	Takao Morii	Q62558	6818

7590 07/07/2004

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EXAMINER

FISCHER, JUSTIN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1733

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No. 09/853,674	Applicant(s) MORII ET AL.	
	Examiner Justin R Fischer	Art Unit 1733	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 26 June 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 4 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____

Claim(s) objected to: _____

Claim(s) rejected: 2-9, 11-14, 16-20 and 22.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
10. ☐ Other: _____


Art Unit: 1733

Continuation of 5: Regarding applicant's arguments, it is agreed that Sato '411 positively suggests the use of a bundle arrangement but fails to expressly recite the claimed bundle spacing within each belt ply (between 0.25 and 1.00 mm). However, as set forth in the Final Rejection, it is clear that the spacing between adjacent bundles is a function of the number and diameter of the individual filaments forming the bundles. While the spacing between adjacent bundles in the outer belt ply is not satisfied in Examples 1 and 2 of the reference (every other example is a comparison example outside the scope of Sato'411), it is clear that these examples are exemplary in view of the disclosure as a whole. Given the disclosed relationship between the bundle spacing in the inner and outer belt plies (outer spacing is between 1.05 and 3 times the inner spacing), an inner spacing of 0.72 mm would result in an outer spacing between 0.74 mm and 2.16 mm (several values fall within broad range of the claimed invention). Additionally, the inner spacing is by no means restricted to 0.72 mm- this particular inner spacing is described in an example having three filaments per bundle and a filament diameter of 0.28 mm and 0.32 mm, respectively, in the inner and outer belt ply. It is further noted that the above noted relationship between the inner and outer belt plies results in an optimized tire structure regarding rolling resistance, belt separation, and ride comfort. It is emphasized that the spacing between bundles is a function of the filament number and diameter, neither of which are required by the independent claim. Absent any conclusive showing of unexpected results, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to have a bundle spacing between 0.25 mm and 1.00 mm.



Justin Fischer

June 29, 2004



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